3.2. If skilled personnel, resources and local conditions permit camera trapping on a capture-recapture model can be carried out.

For Prey Species (including livestock)

3.3 Pellet density estimate using plots along predetermined sampling routes which will be replicated annually. This will generate a quantitative, objective index with a mean and a variance.

3.4 Direct estimation of prey density or at least prey encounter rates using a system of properly laid out line transects. This will generate a density estimate with a mean and a variance.

The above recommendations should be introduced by modifying the "census" operations into a simpler tiger distribution mapping as described above.

Sd./-	Sd/-	Sd./
(DR. L.A.K. SINGH)	(SANJAY SINGH GAILOUT)	(VINOD RISHI)
Sd./-	Sd/-	
(DR. A.J.T. JOHNSINGH)	(BRIG. RANJIT TALWAR)	
Sd./-	Sd/-	
(DR. ULLAS KARANTH)	(P.K. SEN)	

Taj Mahal

1115. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taj Mahal is in danger due to toxic fumes and smokes emanating from brick kilns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) There is no danger to the Taj Mahal from emissions of brick kilns as all brick kilns in 20 km radius of the Taj Mahal and other significant Monuments in the Taj Trapezium have been closed in compliance of an order dated 10th May, 1996 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Homes for Mentally Retarded

1116. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities where homes for the mentally retarded are functioning at present, population-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have adopted criteria for opening such more homes for these disabled persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Central Government do not have homes for mentally retarded persons. However it gives grants-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations all over India for schools/Vocational Training Centres for mentally retarded. The details of such NGOs State-wise are given in the attached *Statement.*

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.	State	Name of the Cities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad (10)
		2. Secunderabad (03)
		3. Karimnagar (01)
		4. Vishakhapatnam (01)
		5. Vijaywada (01)
		6. Chittor (01)
		7. Krishna (01)
		8. Kakinada (01)
		9. Khammam (01)
		10. Guntoor (01)
2.	Bihar	1. Patna (05)
		2. Gaya (02)
		3. Jehanabad (01)
3.	Delhi	11

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	1. Badodara (01)
		2. Ahmedabad (02)
		3. Rajkot (01)
5.	Haryana	1. Chandigarh (01)
		2. Gurgaon (01)
		3. Rohtak (01)
		4. Ambala (01)
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1. Jammu (01)
7.	Karnataka	1. Dhavangare (01)
		2. Bangalore (03)
		3. Dharwad (01)
		4. Raichur (01)
		5. Belgam (02)
		6. Meleshwaram (01)
		7. Bidar (01)
8.	Kerala	1. Kidangoor (01)
		2. Kottayam (03)
		3. Calicut (03)
		4. Khozikode (01)
		5. Pirovam (01)
		6. Palghat (01)
		7. Wayanad (01)
		8. Tellicherry (01)
		9. Trichur (04)
		10. Iduki (01)
		11. Thiruvananthapuram (02)
		12. Parel (01)
		13. Eamakulam (03)
		14. Palkkad (01)
		15. Quilon (01)
		16. Kannur (01)
		17. Thiruvalla (01)
		18. Cochin (01)
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Jabalpur (01)
		2. Bhopal (01)
10.	Maharashtra	1. Mumbai (04)
		2. Pune (01)
		3. Virar (01)
		4. Parbhani (01)
11.	Manipur	1. Imphal (03)
12.	Meghalaya	1. Shillong (01)
13.	Orissa	1. Cuttuck (01)
		2. Khurda (01)
		3. Puri (02)
		4. Narjagarh (01)
14.	Punjab	1. Patiala (01)
15.	Rajasthan	1. Jaipur (01)
16.	Tamil Nadu	1. Agulkundy (01)
		2. Madurai (02)
		3. Chennai (11)
		4. Thirunalvelll (01)
		5. Erode (02)
		6. Trichy (01)
		7. Udumalpet (01)
		8. Coimbatore (03)
		9. Thanjavur (01)

1	2	3
17	Tripura	1. Agartala (01)
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Allahabad (02)
		2. Lucknow (05)
		3. Agra (01)
		4. Ghaziabad (01)
		5. Noida (01)
		6. Haridwar (01)
		7. Dehradun (01)
		8. Falzabad (01)
19.	West Bengal	1. 24 Parganas (01)
		2. Calcutta (08)
		3. Midnapur (01)
		4. Hooghly (01)

[Translation]

Production of Cotton

1117. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton crop for the new season with effect from October, 1997 to September, 1998 is likely to be similar to that of the current season;

(b) if so, the extent to which the cotton production during 1996-97 has been more in comparison to the pervious year;

(c) whether the majority of the cotton growing States have received good rains but sowing operation have been delayed in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor and the extent to which it will affect the cotton production in these States;

(e) whether the cotton purchases have declined drastically as most of the spinning mills have proposed their immediate requirement; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) It is too early to assess the cotton production prospects for the year 1997-98. As per the information received so far, 69% of the normal area under cotton has been covered and the sowing of crop is still in progress in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu. The condition of the standing crop is reported to be satisfactory.

The production of cotton during 1996-97 is estimated to be 145.3 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each which is higher by 14.4 lakh bales than its production of 130.9 lakh bales achieved in the previous year, i.e. 1995-96.

(e) and (f) The purchases by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) as on 16.7.1997 was 11.0 lakh bales as compared to 10.1 lakh bales during the corresponding period last year. The Government has released a quota of 13.42 lakh bales of cotton for export during 1996-97. The aggressive purchases by the CCI gives support to cotton growers. The ceiling for export of cotton yarn of below 41s counts has been increased from 80 Mkg to 140 Mkg in 1997. Cotton has been removed from Selective credit control from October, 1996. Stock limits on cotton have been removed from February, 1995. Also, the Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme--Intensive Cotton Development Programme in 11 major cotton growing States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu & Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Expenditure on S.P.G.

1118. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a provision of more than 75 crore rupees has been made in this year's Union Budget for the Special Protection Group;

(b) if so, whether the amount spent on the security of very important persons belongs to general public/ people's representatives have the right whereas the VVIPs include such people also who are no more representatives or even not related to their families; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of public money on such VIPs who are not people's representatives?